GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2532
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Fire Safety
M. Smt. Vasanthi

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to increase the scrutiny of fire safety preparedness in all markets, malls and bus stations with every 100 metres evacuation exit way facility and fire alarm in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to setup fire service stations with equipped and trained fire force officers in modern technology at every market in the cities of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon, State/ UT-wise; and

(e) whether the Government has issued guidelines on fire safety to States and fire departments and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (d): No Madam. Fire Services have been included as a Municipal function in the XIIth Schedule of the Constitution of India Article 243 (W). As such, it is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to ensure safety of life and property of the citizens in the area of their jurisdiction including all markets, malls and bus stations. It is also the responsibility of the State Governments to raise and equip fire services and train fire personnel in their jurisdiction and enforce their Fire Safety Acts.
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National Fire Service College, Nagpur, established in 1956, is imparting specialized training to the Fire Service Personnel of States/Union Territories/ Central Ministries/Public Sector Undertakings etc. To cope up with the growing demand, 10 Regional Training Centers have been identified to cater the training needs of lower level functionaries (Annexed).

(e): There are standards on firefighting/rescue equipments and code of practices on fire safety in various occupancies/industries including malls, temporary structures and pandals used for functions. The National Building Code of India, published by the Bureau of Indian Standards, covers the detailed guidelines for construction, maintenance and fire safety of the building structures including the evacuation of occupants. The Government of India has also constituted a Standing Fire Advisory Council. This council recommends suitable measures to upgrade the standards of fire services which also include special equipments for fire fighting and rescue in high rise buildings. Director General (Fire Service, Civil Defence and Home Guards) issues the advisories to all the States/Union Territories on implementation of Fire Safety guidelines from time to time.

The National Disaster Management Authority has also issued guidelines during April, 2012 with the objective of standardizing scaling/ type of equipment and training of man power to modernize and improve fire fighting capabilities in the country.

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